

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Janet Bramley

DATE: September 29, 2000

RE: CORRECTED version of report first distributed on August 25. Mental health service utilization by people previously in trouble with the law.

The weekly PIP distributed on August 25 was based on incomplete data on people charged with crimes. This report is based on complete data. The current report indicates that many more people got into trouble with the law but the rates of criminal justice involvement for adult mental health clients and the overall pattern of variation among regions is similar to that indicated previously. Thanks to Charly Dickerson (Agency of Human Services) for spotting the undercount. Comments from our readers on the reasonableness of the data and the appropriateness of our analysis are a critical component of the learning process that is the purpose of our weekly performance indicator report series. We thank all of you who participate in this dialogue.

This revised report focuses on access to community mental health services for people in one of the special populations identified by the Performance Indicator Advisory Group: people who had been in trouble with the law. Specifically, this week's PIP focuses on the proportion of the people who had been charged with a crime during calendar year 1998 and who made use of the services of their local community mental health center during fiscal year 1999. The analysis reported here made use of anonymous extracts from databases maintained by the Vermont Center for Justice Research and the Vermont Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services. The criminal justice data set includes one record for every time a person was charged with a non-motor vehicle felony or misdemeanor. Each record includes information on the region of the state in which the person lived, the nature of the offense, and the date of birth and gender of the person charged. The mental health data set includes one record for each person served by Adult Mental Health or Community Rehabilitation and

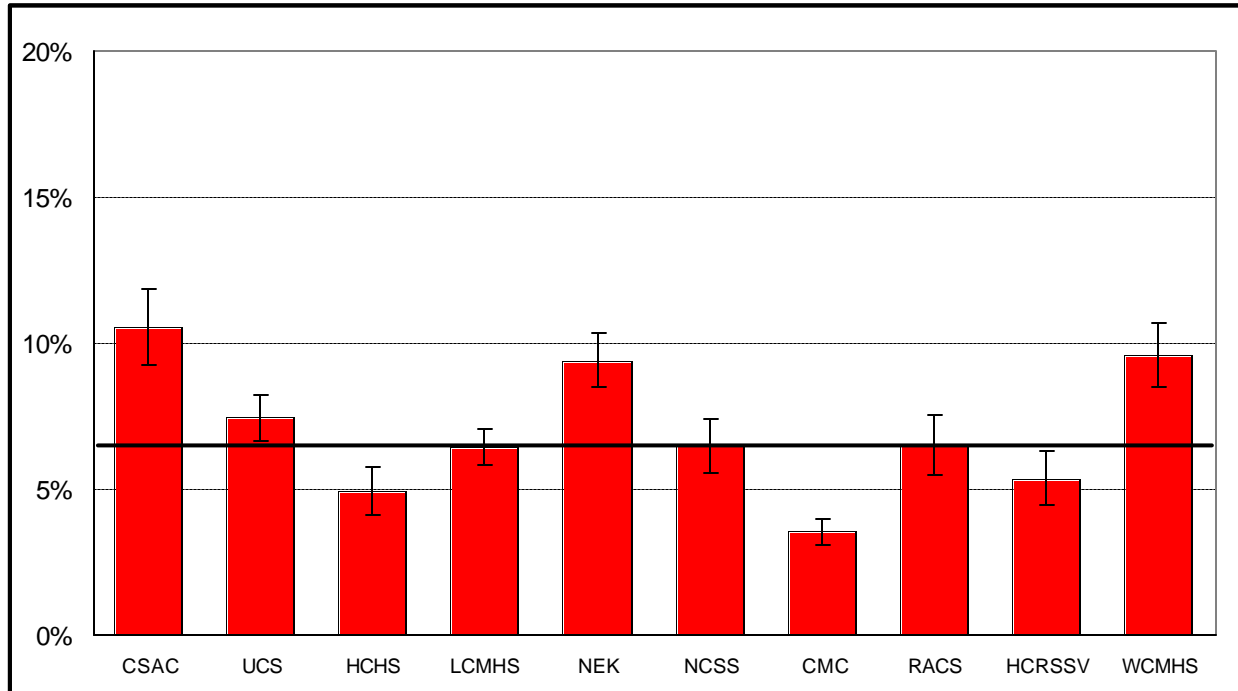
Treatment programs for people with severe and persistent mental illness. Each record included the date of birth and the gender of the person served and the region of the state in which they were served. Because these data sets did not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of people represented in each data set and the number of people shared by the data sets.

As you will see, there was substantial variation in the proportion of the people who were charged with a crime in 1998 and were in treatment at their local community mental health center during 1999. These rates ranged from a high of 10.5%(±) in Addison County to a low of 3.5%(±) in Orange County. Four agencies (Addison, Washington, UCS, and Northeast) were significantly higher than the statewide median. Three agencies (Clara Martin, Howard, and Southeast) were significantly lower than the statewide median.

Quantitative penetration/utilization rates, such as the ones presented here, do not tell us why one community program is more accessible to a special population of people, while another is less accessible. Such measures do tell us, however, which community programs provide more access to care for specified groups of people, and which programs provide less.

Over the next few weeks, we will be distributing a number of different measures of access to adult mental health treatment programs. We look forward to your comments and suggestions to 802-241-2638 or jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us.

Adult Mental Health Service Utilization in FY 1999 by People Previously in Trouble with the Law



Region/Provider	Total Residents in Trouble with Law in 1998	Residents in Trouble with Law in 1998 who were MH Consumers in 1999	
		Number	Percent
Addison - CSAC	520 ± 7	55 ± 7	10.5% ± 1.3%
Bennington - UCS	895 ± 10	67 ± 7	7.5% ± 0.8%
Chittenden - HCHS	3,327 ± 41	164 ± 26	4.9% ± 0.8%
Lamoille - LCMHS	592 ± 7	38 ± 4	6.5% ± 0.6%
Northeast - NEK	1,452 ± 17	137 ± 13	9.4% ± 0.9%
Northwest - NCSS	1,023 ± 12	66 ± 9	6.5% ± 0.9%
Orange - CMC	430 ± 6	15 ± 2	3.5% ± 0.4%
Rutland - RACS	1,190 ± 14	77 ± 12	6.5% ± 1.0%
Southeast - HCRSSV	1,887 ± 22	101 ± 17	5.4% ± 0.9%
Washington - WCMHS	953 ± 12	91 ± 10	9.6% ± 1.1%
Total	12,268 ± 148	812 ± 108	
Median			6.5%

Active adult caseload includes all people assigned to a CRT or Adult Outpatient program who received at least one community mental health service during FY 1999.

Based on probabilistic estimation of the overlap between data on active adult client caseload (from DDMHS MSR Data Base) in FY 1999 and all persons charged with a crime (from Vermont Center for Justice Research data base) in calendar year 1998.